

REMARKS


Pending claims 60-78 have been restricted into the following groups of claims:

- Group I: Claims 60-65, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule, host cell, and virus;
- Group II: Claims 66-68, drawn to a method of producing a carboxylesterase protein;
- Group III: Claims 69-72, 76-78, drawn to an isolated carboxylesterase protein; and
- Group IV: Claims 73-75, drawn to a method to identify a compound capable of inhibiting flea carboxylesterase.

Applicants submit that since the nucleic acid molecule claims (Claims 60-65) include both the elected amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:73 and a corresponding nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO:72, the examination of these two sequences in the same application would not pose a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicants additionally contend the joint examination of Group I (isolated nucleic acid molecule claims 60-65) and Group III (protein claims 69-72 and 76-78) limited to amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:73 and the corresponding nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO:72 would not pose a serious burden on the examiner since the same sequences would be examined in both groups of claims. Applicants nevertheless elect the Group I claims for further prosecution and further elect SEQ ID NO:73 as the individual sequence for examination solely for the purpose of fully complying with the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

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